

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EURE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 /081 W

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P R 221832Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4490

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR IS XF

SUBJECT: GISCARD RECEIVES DEPARTING ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR BEN NATAN PAID A HALF-HOUR FARE-
WELL CALL ON PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING OCTOBER 2L.
AFP DESCRIBED IT AS A "COURTESY" CALL AND SPECULATED THAT
THE QUESTION OF THE FRENCH VOTE IN THE GA ON THE UN
ZIONISM RESOLUTION WAS DISCUSSED. NOTING THAT IT IS NOT
USUAL FOR FRENCH PRESIDENTS TO RECEIVE DEPARTING AMBAS-
SADORS, REUTER QUOTED "SOURCES" WHO SAID GISCARD WANTED
TO MEET BEN NATAN TO SHOW HIS "SYMPATHY AND FRIENDSHIP"
TO ISRAEL. REUTER ALSO REPORTED THAT MINISTER OF JUS-
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TICE LECANUET WILL VISIT ISRAEL IN JANUARY AND THAT A

NUMBER OF ISRAELI MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED IN FRANCE NEXT YEAR.

2. BEN NATAN MADE NO STATEMENT ON LEAVING THE ELYSEE, BUT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE SAYING THE PRIVATE MEETING "TOOK PLACE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. THE PRESIDENTIAL GESTURE WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO REASSURE ISRAEL AND ITS MANY FRIENDS IN THE LOCAL ELECTORATE THAT FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXISTENCE. IT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO COUNTERACT SUBSEQUENT ACTS CONTEMPLATED BY FRANCE WHICH ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER UNFRIENDLY, SUCH AS AN UPGRADING OF THE STATUS OF THE PLO IN FRANCE OR AN AMBIGUOUS FRENCH POSITION IN THE GA ON THE MATTER OF LABELING ZIONISM AS RACISM.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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